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Patent Application 09/436,920 – Examiner Interview Points of Discussion:

Claims 1, 7, 21 –

1. Identify “first interface card,” “second interface card,” “management card,” and “client” in Flood. I want to know specifically what elements of Flood you equate to these claim elements.
2. The “command” referred to in Flood, col. 5, ll. 21-26 is sent by a first “program execution module 18” to a second “program execution module 18” not from a “client” to a “management card” as recited in Claim 1. Moreover, the “command” cited in Flood has nothing to do with “identifying an interface card or a network device associated with an interface card” as recited in Claim 1. Instead, the “command” in Flood is an identification of a “next step” of a “function chart program” and an “instruction to begin executing this next step.”
3. How does the **development and upload of “control programs”** by the “programming terminal 24” to the “system controller 16” in Flood (col. 4, ll. 50-61) have anything to do with **“establishing a communication link between the client and a particular one of the first interface card and the second interface card selected in response to the command communicated by the client”** as recited in Claim 1? If the communication in Flood is between “programming terminal 24” (which is equated to the “client”) and “system controller 16” (which is equated to a “management card”) then where is the “communication link” between the “client” and the “interface card”?
4. The “communication link” established in Claim 1 is between the “client” and an “interface card.” If you equate the “client” of Claim 1 with the “programming terminal 24” of Flood, you must equate the “communication link” of Claim 1 with “cable 25” (e.g., which connects system controller 16 with programming terminal 24). However, “programming instructions” sent by “local area network 28” to “system controller 16” is over “cable 26” not “cable 25.” Therefore, how can you say that Flood teaches “communicate management information **using the communication link**”?

Claim 5, 12 – see argument 2 above. Where does the “command” of Flood select “one of the first interface card and the second interface card.”

Claim 6, 13 – see argument in last response.

Claim 14 – Identify the “management card” in Flood. Where in this “management card” is the “switch”?

Claims 2, 8 and 15 –

1. Identify the “management card,” the “switch,” the “processor,” and the “memory” of Claim 2 in Flood or Schneider.
2. If you equate “switches 74a and 74b” of Schneider to the “switch” of Claim 2, then identify how the “switches 74a and 74b” form part of a “management card” (Claim 2 says that the “management card comprises ... a switch”).
3. Identify the “mapping information” of Claim 2 in Flood or Schneider.
4. Show me where Flood/Schneider teaches “using the mapping information” to “determine the port” and then “establish a communication link between the client and the determined port” as in Claim 2.

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